

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended): A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a one or more test biological sample samples; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the one or more test biological sample samples to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample; and

(c) selecting a test sample that comprises enhanced 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products relative to the normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the selected test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm.

Claim 11. (currently amended): ~~The method according to claim 10;~~ A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm, and

wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claim 12. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the neoplasm is a colon cancer.

Claim 13. (original): The method according to claim 10, wherein the test biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, stool, urine, semen and biopsied tissue.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 16. (canceled)

Claim 17. (previously amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is evaluated by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with antibody or fragment thereof immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with any 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 18. (previously amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 evaluated in the test biological sample is secreted from neoplastic cells.

Claim 19. (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 18,~~ A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein of SEQ. ID. NO: 2 (Figure 1), in a test biological sample; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample,

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm,

wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 evaluated in the test biological sample is secreted from

Claims 20-53. (canceled)

Claim 54. (currently amended): A method of identifying evidence of a neoplasm in a biological sample comprising:

(a) examining a level of expression of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene, which encodes the protein encoded by a cDNA clone 20P1F12-GTC1 contained in the plasmid deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as Accession No. 207097, in a one or more test biological sample samples; and

(b) comparing the level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the one or more test biological ~~sample~~ samples to a level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression found in a comparable normal biological sample; and

(c) selecting a test sample that comprises enhanced 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products relative to the normal biological sample;

wherein an enhanced level of said 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene products in the selected test biological sample relative to the normal biological sample is evidence of a neoplasm.

Claim 55. (previously added): The method according to claim 54, wherein the neoplasm is a prostate cancer.

Claim 56. (previously added): The method according to claim 54, wherein the neoplasm is a colon cancer.

Claim 57. (previously added): The method according to claim 54, wherein the test biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, stool, urine, semen and biopsied tissue.

Claim 58. (previously added): The method according to claim 54, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 gene expression in the test biological sample is evaluated by examining the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 59. (previously added): The method of claim 58, wherein the level of 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein is determined by an immunoassay by contacting the sample with

antibody or fragment thereof immunoreactive with said protein and observing the presence or absence of an immunocomplex formed from the antibody or fragment with any 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 protein.

Claim 60. (previously added): The method of claim 54, wherein the 20P1F12/TMPRSS2 evaluated in the test biological sample is secreted from neoplastic cells.

Claim 61. (previously added): The method of claim 60, wherein the neoplastic cells are prostate cancer cells.